

November 11, 2007, at the 59th annual Citizens of the Year dinner in Modesto, CA.

John Rogers was born in San Francisco, CA. He graduated from Willamette University in Oregon in 1963 with a bachelors degree in psychology and received his masters degree in counseling and guidance from the University of Colorado, Greeley in 1976. In 1963, Mr. Rogers was commissioned as a rated pilot in the Air Force and attended primary pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, receiving his wings in 1964. While in the Air Force he was stationed around the United States and spent 1 year in South Vietnam. He retired from the Air Force as colonel in 1989 from Travis Air Force Base in California.

June Rogers was born and raised in Modesto, CA, and attended Modesto Junior College. She and John met in Modesto and were married, turning her into an Air Force wife as she moved around with him for 26 years. While on base, she volunteered with many organizations; including Family Service Agency, the Red Cross and the military base thrift shop. Mrs. Rogers was also active in the Squadron Wives Organization, the Officer's Wives Club and the Catholic Women of the Chapel.

Mrs. Rogers was chosen as one of the Outstanding Women in the Community and honored by Catholic Charities as their Honoree of the Year at the Bishops Celebration of Charities Banquet. Mr. Rogers is the president of the United Samaritans Foundation in Turlock, CA. He continues to fly as a chartered pilot and owns an interest in Sky Trek Aviation in Modesto. He contributes and has been honored by numerous organizations; including the Boy and Girl Scouts, various art groups and the Gallo Art Center for the Arts.

Upon Mr. Rogers' retirement Mr. and Mrs. Rogers moved back to the Modesto area, and continued to serve their community. Mrs. Rogers serves her church as the communion minister's scheduler, she is active on the Liturgy Committee and has served on many Church committees. Also, she is a member of Catholic Social Services and Catholic Charities.

Also adding to their long list of contributions, they founded an organization to assist the needy in their community. The organization serves 45,000 lunches per month. The facility also has showers for the homeless, a clothes closet and a pantry for those in need. The homeless are allowed to use the address and phone number to stay in contact and receive mail. This facility also houses homeless women and children for up to 1 year. They help the family to get their lives back on track, learn employment skills, parenting skills, and budgeting skills.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate John and June Rogers upon being awarded with the 2007 Citizens of the Year Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Rogers many years of continued success.

#### RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE STAFF-LED TOURS

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 9, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I, along with my colleagues JOHN DUN-

CAN Jr., DEBBIE WASSERMAN SHULTZ, MICHAEL CAPUANO, and JIM MATHESON are introducing a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that staff-led tours of the United States Capitol should be preserved.

Staff-led tours are a long standing tradition and can be documented as far back as 40 years ago. I suspect they date back even earlier, and perhaps existed when the Capitol was first constructed when Congressmen had constituents or friends visit the Capitol and their staff would take them to view the magnificence of the Capitol when the Member was not available. Senate Historian Richard Baker asserts that staff-led tours have always existed. Regardless of exactly when staff-led tours began, it has become an honored and well-worn custom.

While there is no chronicle of when staff-led tours first began, tours given by professional staff, known as the Capitol Guide Service were established in 1876. Upon establishment of the Capitol Guide Service, there was a 25 cent fee for getting a guided tour of the Capitol. Tom Nottingham, a well known member of the Capitol Preservation Society was an outspoken activist against the fee and advocated for a free and open Capitol. Finally in 1971, through the Legislative Reorganization Act, tours of the Capitol were offered free of charge.

Since that date, visitors have been able to visit their Member offices prior to going to the Capitol. Members or someone from their personal staff often accompany these visitors to the Capitol. It is important to note that the Capitol Guide Service has existed for over 100 years now and they have co-existed with staff-led tours without any controversy or incident.

As a Representative of a congressional district in close proximity to the United States Capitol, not only do my constituents come and visit the Capitol, but also friends and family of my constituents often join in these special tours conducted by my staff. As most Members will affirm, it is a joy to have all these visitors come and see for the first time the U.S. Capitol.

Recently, a constituent contacted my office requesting a Capitol tour. On our way through the Cannon Tunnel to see the artwork on display from the Congressional Art Competition, it turned out that her nephew, whom she had never met, had his drawing on display at the Cannon Tunnel. She was able to connect with her nephew and family through the ability to receive a personalized tour through my office. Had this option not been available, she would have had a hard time getting a personalized tour, and would not have been able to stop and get a good look at her nephew's award-winning artwork.

Also, observing constituent's State statue has become one of the hallmarks of staff-led tours. Perhaps one of the greatest examples is the statue of King Kamehameha the Great, one of the most impressive statues in Statuary Hall and one that brings much pride to visiting Hawaiians. Tours conducted through the Capitol Guide Service average around 40 people per tour and it is very difficult for professional staff to accommodate personal requests. We have an obligation to provide constituent services here in the House of Representatives and at our respective districts. Anecdotes of memorable tours can be recalled by all Members and by staff who have led a tour of the Cap-

itol. The honor and privilege of providing this service to our constituents is not something that should be compromised.

I understand but disagree with the concerns of those that might want to do away with staff-led tours. Since the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, the Capitol Police increased security. Since the attacks of September 11th, the security of the Capitol was increased further. Even with all these security improvements, we have managed to preserve the right of our constituents to continue touring the Capitol with congressional staff. We cannot and should not let fear of the uncertain end this time honored tradition.

The resolution we introduce today recognizes the sentiment of many of us in Congress that staff-led tours are a long established tradition in the Capitol and an important part of constituent services. Staff-led Capitol tours must continue and the opening of the Capitol Visitor's Center should not change this policy. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution calling for the preservation of staff-led tours.

HONORING DR. FITZALBERT  
MICHAEL MARIUS, AS THE 2007  
TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY  
HEALTH CHAMPIONS HONOREE  
BY THE WEST FRESNO HEALTH-  
CARE COALITION

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 9, 2007*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Fitzalbert Michael Marius of Fresno, CA, for being named a 2007 Honoree at the Tribute to Health Champions reception, held by the West Fresno Healthcare Coalition. As an original member of the first open-heart surgery team at Valley Children's Hospital, his medical career is impressive and he is most deserving of this honor.

Born in Colón, Panama, to parents of West Indian decent, Dr. Marius moved to America as a young boy and chased the American dream of bettering himself by attending college. A true patriot, he left the university to serve in the United States Army in World War II, returning undeterred to not only finish his undergraduate education, but also complete medical school.

After receiving his M.D. from Howard University Medical School in Washington, DC, Dr. Marius spent a year in the cardiac surgery program at Stanford University's Lane Hospital in San Francisco. Throughout his career, Dr. Marius has performed general, vascular, and thoracic surgery in Fresno. In addition, Dr. Marius has been actively involved with the Sickle Cell Support Group in southwest Fresno and continues to work with the heart surgery teams of St. Agnes Hospital, the Fresno Heart Hospital and Community Hospital.

Dr. Fitzalbert Marius personifies the principles and integrity of our Valley. He is a role model for all of us, especially our Valley's upcoming generation of medical professionals. It is with great pride that I recognize him for all that he has done on behalf of our community and congratulate him for receiving this distinguished award.